

CLAIMS:

1. A filter material comprising a matrix in which is dispersed a granular formulation of a material comprising a base formed substantially of cellulose fibres onto which is adsorbed a composition comprising one or more aliphatic carboxylic acids having hydrocarbon chains consisting of 8 to 20 carbon atoms.

2. A material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more aliphatic carboxylic acids have hydrocarbon chains consisting of 10 to 18 carbon atoms.

3. A material as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the one or more carboxylic acids are selected from the group comprising stearic acid and palmitic acid.

4. A filter material as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~ wherein the matrix comprises a non-woven fibrous material.

5. A filter material as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~ wherein the matrix comprises an open-cell foam materials.

6. A filter material as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~ wherein the matrix comprises a cotton or viscose gauze.

7. A filter column comprising a hollow core upon which is mounted an alternating stack of filter plates and discs of the filter material as claimed in ^{claim 1} ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~, wherein the filter plates are adapted to allow passage of fluid from a circumferential region of the filter column to the hollow core by way of the discs of filter material.

8. A filter cartridge comprising a hollow core around which is wrapped one or more layers of a filter material as claimed in ^{claim 1} ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~.

9. A filter pod comprising a casing internally divided into two chambers by a carrier which supports at least one filter cartridge as claimed in claim 8,

the carrier and the at least one cartridge being arranged so that fluid can only pass from one chamber to the other by passing through both the hollow tubular core and the filter material of the at least one cartridge.

10. A method of producing a material comprising a base formed substantially of cellulose fibres onto which is adsorbed a composition comprising one or more aliphatic carboxylic acids having hydrocarbon chains consisting of 8 to 20 carbon atoms, wherein one or more cellulosic materials are mixed together with a powdered formulation of the one or more carboxylic acids.

11. A method according to claim ¹⁰~~12~~, wherein the one or more cellulosic materials are selected from the group comprising wood chips and virgin pulp.

12. A method according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein latex is added to the one or more cellulosic materials and the one or more carboxylic acids.

13. A method according to ^{claim 10}~~any one of claims 10 to 12~~, wherein mixing takes place in a hammer mill.

14. A method of cleaning a fluid by contacting the fluid with a material comprising a base formed substantially of cellulose fibres onto which is adsorbed a composition comprising one or more aliphatic carboxylic acids having hydrocarbon chains consisting of 8 to 20 carbon atoms, wherein one or more cellulosic materials are mixed together with a powdered formulation of the one or more carboxylic acids.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the fluid is air.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the fluid is water.

17. A filter cartridge comprising a container having a fluid input and a fluid output and including therebetween a quantity of the material of ^{claim 1}~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~.

add C₁
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